

[21 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) to (f) The new Textile Policy envisages, *inter alia*, that the policy of not taking over/nationalizing sick units will be continued. In respect of unviable Central Public Sector Undertakings, various options for strategic partnerships or privatisation will be explored, and non-viable mills will be closed down with provision for an adequate safety-net for the workers and employees. The Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme to provide interim relief to the displaced workers, is continued.

### **Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair**

2849. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (Spring) 2001 has again been organised recently at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, showcasing a wide range of handicrafts, woodcrafts, metalcrafts, garden articles, jewellery products etc.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that handicrafts of all of the States are being fully represented in the Fair; and

(c) if so, whether Madhubani paintings and other artefacts belonging to Bihar have not been given its due share in this showcasing and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair (IHGF) (Spring) 2001 was organised at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 27th February-2nd March 2001 by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) to provide linkages between handicrafts exporters and the overseas market.

The exporters exhibit only such products as are in line with international market demand. Since it is a market driven commercial event, no data is available on any craft specific information pertaining to the fair.